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FOREST SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH NOTE

Northern Rocky Mountain Forest & Range Experiment Station

Missoula, Montana

No. 11 October 25, 1940

EMPLOYMENT PER UNIT OF FOREST PRODUCT

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From time to time requests are received for information on the amount of employment provided in the manufacture of a thousand board feet of lumber, a square of shingles, a cord of wood, or some other forest product. Although lumber, shingles, and cordwood bear little resemblance to one another, it is possible to express the employment each provides in terms of a common denominator of labor-time such as the man-hour. This has been done in the attached table for some of the more common products obtained from the forests of the northern Rocky Mountain region.

Although the data shown in the table were obtained from reliable sources they should be treated as averages or approximations and not be applied as a hard-and-fast rule to determine the efficiency of a particular plant. This word of caution is offered because different plants differ in the amount of machinery used and other factors. In the case of logging, for example, one operator may have good ground, large timber, much mechanization and accordingly high outputs per man per day whereas another operator may have a less favorable opportunity, less mechanization, and, as a result, lower outputs. Each may be very efficient although their ways of doing the job are different.

Acknowledgement: Grateful appreciation is hereby extended to those lumbermen who rendered material aid and assistance by furnishing information presented herein. Specific names are not mentioned in order to avoid disclosing the source of the data.

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Job description	Unit of measure	Man-hours employment per unit
Logging (stump to sawmill)		
Western white pine type	M ft. log scale	12.0
" " " "	M ft. b.m.	9.6
Ponderosa pine or Larch & Douglas-fir type	M ft. log scale	8.0
" " " " " " " "	M ft. b.m.	6.7
Lumber manufacture (sawmill pond to car)		
Finished lumber, mostly one inch thick	M ft. b.m.	12.5
Timbers and rough lumber	M ft. b.m.	8.3
Shingle manufacture (through shingle mill to car)	Square	1.0
Note: One square equals four bundles.		
Wooden boxes and shook (box factory to car)	M ft. b.m.	11.5
Note: Unit of measure is based on footage of lumber entering the box factory.		
Window frames and sash (plant to car)	M ft. b.m.	24.0
Note: Unit of measure is based on footage of lumber entering the plant.		
Lath manufacture (through lath mill to car)	M pieces	4.3
Match blocks (factory to car)	M ft. b.m.	7.6
Note: Unit of measure is based on footage of match plank entering the plant.		
Cedar poles (stump to pole yard)	M linear feet	34.5
" " " " " "	Piece	1.2
Forest fuelwood (stump to fuel yard)	Cord	8.0
Posts (stump to car)	M pieces	60.0
Round mining timbers (stump to car)	M ft. log scale	16.0
" " " " " "	M linear feet	40.0
Framed mining timbers (framing plant to car)	M ft. log scale	5.5
Note: Unit of measure is based on footage of logs entering the plant.		